



The Parish of
**ST NICHOLAS,
SUTTON**

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd Frances Arnold

The Rectory,
34 Robin Hood Lane,
SUTTON
SM1 2RG

5 July 2020

St Nicholas Church and Coronavirus (16)



Bronze statue of Jesus symbolically commissioning Peter with his shepherd's crook (at Mensa Christi, Tabgha, Galilee)

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

On pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May 2017 I saw beautiful churches by the Italian architect Barluzzi and gardens like Gethsemane, as well as the garden tomb. All of them were busy with groups of pilgrims from around the world, praying, remembering, singing.

But if you were to ask me which place in the Holy Land had the most profound effect on me, it wasn't any of these. It was a place visited by the risen Jesus after his crucifixion and resurrection. Standing on the rock close to the water's edge on the north western shore of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus invited his friends to 'Come and have breakfast.'

The disciples had been fishing all night but had caught nothing. Jesus was on the shore next to a charcoal fire, but at first they didn't realise it was him. He prepared breakfast for them all, including Peter, the friend who had denied him. The last time Peter had stood next to a charcoal fire was in the High Priest's courtyard on the night of Jesus' arrest. Then he had denied three times even knowing him. The charcoal fire on the beach brings back the memory of that tragic night. And it does so in order to heal the open wound that this sorry tale has left in Peter and perhaps in Jesus as well.

In the little cove we felt the fresh spray of the Sea of Galilee and each member of the group chose to walk alone along the near deserted beach. We could hear the water lapping at our feet. We could have been anywhere in the world, strolling across the pebbles and seashells. But we knew we were following in the footsteps of Jesus and Peter. They had left the other disciples at breakfast, to walk slowly along the shore to be alone for the conversation they both needed.

Peter was given the chance to affirm his love for Jesus three times and, by way of forgiveness, Jesus gave Peter a job to do. Jesus responded to each affirmation of love with a command, a fresh challenge, a new commission for Peter. Jesus was sharing his own work, his own ministry, with his disciple. Peter would follow Jesus to suffering and even to death. On St Peter's Day, the 29th June (the anniversary of his martyrdom in Rome in about the year 64), we recall his life and ministry in the steps of the Master.

The story of the breakfast on the beach comes right at the end of John's Gospel. You can read it in chapter 21. When it begins no fish have been caught, despite a night's fishing. As dawn is breaking, Jesus stands beside the seashore. The disciples haul in a miraculous catch, but it isn't needed for breakfast; Jesus is already cooking fish and bread on his charcoal fire. He is always ahead of us.

Church of England worship

You can find national online resources including weekly streamed services and daily audio at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online> as well as additional worship provision on the BBC, for example Radio 4 Sunday morning worship at 8.10am (or later using BBC Sounds) and the service on BBC1 later in the morning. Bishop Christopher's service is available on his Twitter stream: @BishopSouthwark and on the Diocesan Facebook and YouTube channels at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthwarkCofE> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/SouthwarkDiocese>

Pastoral Network

A big thank you, as ever, on behalf of all of us, to the Mothers' Union/Lunch Team joint initiative who are continuing with their marvellous work in co-ordinating telephone/WhatsApp support and supply of provisions to those self-isolating. A particular thank you to Nicki Richards, Jeff Richards, Emma & Keith Cann, Liz & Chris Cann, Lily Bande, Helen Yately, Paul Butler and Diane Young.

Staying in touch

Stay in touch about ways that we can care for you and pray for you. I'd be glad to hear from you. My contact details are: rector.stnicholassutton@gmail.com 020 8642 3499
Thank you for your calls. I love receiving telephone calls from you.

In particular can I make a plea to those who find themselves in pressing need (or who know of others of our number in difficulties)? Please don't feel that you have nowhere to turn. I really want you to contact me in the first instance. When you do, I will either be able to help you myself or point you in the right direction for access to food or emotional support for people who are struggling during the pandemic.

Love one another

Please continue to watch out for each other and contact me or the wardens, John Kerr or Geoff Rendall, if you are concerned for someone.

And do be assured of my prayers for you. May almighty God keep us safe in body, mind and spirit as we ask him in Jesus' name. Thank you too for your continued prayers and support.

With warmest good wishes to you all,

Frances

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide,
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SUTTON

5 JULY 2020 4th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

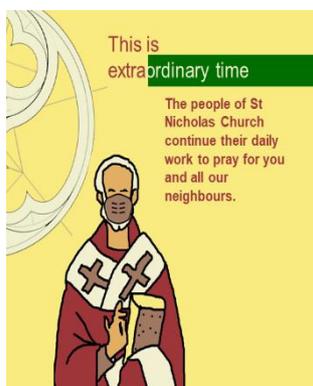
IN THE PAST WEEK...

BLESSINGS...

- NHS staff
- Sutton Community Support Hub
- Shops open in High Street
- Waterstones
- Sutton Police
- Bus drivers
- Street Pastors
- Picnics
- Bubbles
- Less pollution

WE MISS...

- Worshipping together
- The organ and the piano and Pam, Isabella and Paul's playing
- Sharing the Peace (hands or elbows)
- Celebrating birthdays together
- Coffee on Sundays and soup on Thursdays
- Light coming through the church windows



Thanks to Jeff Richards for producing this Trinity poster. (You can see the posters outside church)

Southwark Diocesan Prayer Calendar (monthly)

can be found at <https://southwark.anglican.org/information/resources/prayer-calendar/> (this includes the Anglican Cycle of Prayer)

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THIS WEEK I...

- Took part in a weekly Zoom meeting with the Churchwardens
- Met with Geoff Rendall, JAM and Spectrum (via Zoom) for worship and a chat. It was lovely to see them all again
- Continued diocesan training by Zoom
- Clapped for Carers (5pm on 5 July, 72nd birthday of the NHS)

PRAYERS for...

- those suffering the economic, psychological & social effects of the crisis
- the disadvantaged & the vulnerable
- those in authority, including our local leaders in the Council, the Police, the NHS & our MP's
- essential workers including NHS/Care Workers, Emergency Services, Refuse Collectors/Retail Staff
- faith leaders
- those who mourn
- the family and communities mourning George Floyd & those who stand against racism and social inequality, striving for social harmony

Worship

There will be an Order of Service for 10.30am Sunday morning worship each week. I will be leading worship from The Rectory. Please join me by following the Order of Service (which is sent to you and can be found on the website) and singing confidently in your own homes. I think of you all and pray for you each day.

Sunday 12 July is the 5th Sunday after Trinity

I encourage you to make a habit of daily prayer, whether *A Way of Daily Prayer* (attached, or on website under Useful Information-Service Sheets);

Common Worship *Daily Prayer* <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>; or *Book of Common Prayer*.

Bible readings for Morning and Evening Prayer:

Sunday 12 July Trinity 5

MP Deuteronomy 28.1-14, Acts 28.17-end
EP 2 Samuel 7.18-end, Luke 19.41-20.8

Monday 13 July

MP 1 Samuel 1.1-20, Luke 19.28-40
EP Ezekiel 1.1-14, 2 Corinthians 1.1-14

Tuesday 14 July *John Keble, priest, poet, 1866*

MP 1 Samuel 1.21-2.11, Luke 19.41-end
EP Ezekiel 1.15-2.2, 2 Corinthians 1.15-2.4

Wednesday 15 July *Swithun, bishop, c.862*

MP 1 Samuel 2.12-26, Luke 20.1-8
EP Ezekiel 2.3-3.11, 2 Corinthians 2.5-end

Thursday 16 July

MP 1 Samuel 2.27-end, Luke 20.9-19
EP Ezekiel 3.12-end, 2 Corinthians 3

Friday 17 July

MP 1 Samuel 3.1-4.1a, Luke 20.20-26
EP Ezekiel 8, 2 Corinthians 4

Saturday 18 July

MP 1 Samuel 4.1b-end, Luke 20.27-40
EP Ezekiel 9, 2 Corinthians 5

Prayer List – Barbara, Vere, Stan, Roger, Phyllis & Hollis

Departed –Pearl

NOTICES

GIVING DURING DIFFICULT TIMES. THANK YOU to those of you who are able to continue supporting the church by your regular giving during these unprecedented times. This is greatly appreciated.

The church is still functioning at local, national and international level; and it continues to need the financial, as well as the spiritual, support of its members, not least to maintain its support of local parishes and communities.

Some of you have kindly asked for guidance about the most helpful ways in which to make payments at this time and you will have received a message about this from the Treasurer.

St Paul's letters are full of useful advice about Christian giving, especially 2 Corinthians, chapters 8 and 9; he even gives specific directions in I Corinthians 16.2. It is almost as if he had foreseen our needs nearly 2,000 ago.

With renewed thanks for all your support in word, deed and prayer.

RE-OPENING OF CHURCHES FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYER Some of you have asked about our plans in the light of the latest government announcement. We are continuing to plan for re-opening, in consultation with other churches, and will let you know when we are able to do so safely.

RAMBLES IN THE CHURCHYARD – permitted! Jeff Richards is posting a series of Churchyard rambles.

Here is a handy short link:

<https://bit.ly/ChurchyardRambles>